

SPOD Summary

During the week of March 9-13, EPA is deploying a new continuous air monitoring program around the Denka neoprene production plant in LaPlace, Louisiana. The new monitoring program should provide a better understanding of the frequency and magnitude of chloroprene emission spikes and may help EPA identify possible actions that Denka could take to further chloroprene in the community.

Each SPOD monitoring station consists of a stationary photoionization detector (PID), a meteorological station to record weather data, and one or more summa canisters for sampling. The PID measures for total volatile organic compounds (VOC) in the ambient air and, when VOC concentrations reach a certain threshold, a canister will collect a sample that will be measured for chloroprene in a laboratory. The sampling results will be posted to EPA's public website. During the initial phase of monitoring, EPA is setting a low VOC trigger level, which may result in samples being collected even when chloroprene concentrations are not detected or elevated. EPA will gradually adjust the trigger level to avoid sampling when chloroprene levels are not detectable. EPA plans to operate the SPOD monitoring system for about 6 months. The SPOD monitors will be placed in close proximity to the existing air monitors that have been operating since May 2016.

On Thursday, March 12, at 10:00 am, EPA will hold a field presentation of a SPOD monitoring station to demonstrate the photoionization technology and sample canister system. The demonstration will take place on the grounds of Our Lady of Grace Church, 772 LA-44, Reserve, LA 70084 and open to the general public.

Additional details on the SPOD monitoring can be found in the "Quality Assurance Project Plan for SPOD Monitoring at the Denka Performance Elastomer Facility in LaPlace, Louisiana" (QAPP):

[INSERT link to the pdf of the document; signatures may need to be redacted]